



## Pecan Tree's Last Day

Last year's record hurricane season reminded everyone of the danger of falling trees, especially big ones like the pecan that once stood in the middle of the garden area. It was removed for safety reasons earlier this month, to the dismay of many who frequented the garden. Less shade is hard on the azalea but good for the grass.

## Sweeny Hospital Board Considers FY 2007 Tax Rate

**S**weeny Hospital District Directors are considering a Fiscal Year 2007 budget that calls for a tax rate of \$0.27377, compared to the current \$0.34 tax rate.

Even with the rate drop, the hospital district stands to receive more tax revenue next year than this year because the Brazoria County Appraisal District found that the district's property values – especially those for industrial property in the hospital district -- increased approximately \$500 million since last year.

Anyone whose property did not increase in value should see a significant drop in their hospital taxes next year.

Delores Merchant, SCH Financial Ser-

vices Director, said the proposed 2007 budget projects net operating income of \$9.2 million, net operating expenses of \$12.8 million and a net operating loss of \$3.6 million before adding non-operating income of \$5.6 million.

Non-operating revenue comes from hospital district tax collections, grants, rent paid by residents of the assisted-living facility, rent from the new professional office building, and from variety of smaller, miscellaneous sources. Most non-operating revenue comes from taxes, with \$4.2 million expected next year.

When all expenses are deducted from all

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### Birthdays

#### August

- 2 Mary O'Donnell\*
- 4 Jason McCarey  
Harold E. Wuthrich
- 5 Rusty McAlvain
- 8 Susan Debertolis
- 9 Harold W. Wuthrich  
Laurie Knight
- 10 Dr. Salim Dabaghi
- 11 Lucy Miller\*
- 15 Charles Bailey
- 21 Stacey Davis
- 22 Cammie Christie
- 24 Cindy Grandjean
- 26 Jackie Tolbert  
Ron Woolsey
- 28 Melanie Schaefer
- 30 Laura Massey
- 31 Daisy Horn\*

#### September

- 1 Kathy Smedley
- 2 Julia Ryan
- 5 Marc Bailey  
Stephanie Smith
- 6 Annette Mouton
- 9 Gwen Norton
- 10 Jeanetta Simple  
Linda Fishbeck
- 17 Stuart Butler  
Rhonda Moran  
Crystal Lewis  
Dr. Larry Lipscomb
- 20 Bruce King
- 21 Crystal Johnson
- 22 Sherri Pierce
- 23 Keith Marshall
- 24 Grace Baty
- 29 Carm Cosentino
- 30 Joy Williamson

\*Auxiliary

#### New Employees

- Susan Debertolis, LVN

## CALENDAR



### Tuesday, Aug. 29 or Wednesday, Aug. 30 WMD Training Class

Learn about biological, chemical and nuclear threats and how SCH would respond. Mandatory class for direct-care providers. Recommended for all SCH personnel.

1-5 p.m.  
or

8 a.m. to noon Wednesday  
ED Conference Room

### Wednesday, Aug. 30 Blood Pressure Clinic

Sweeny/West Brazos EMS will do free blood pressure screenings.

10 a.m. to 1 p.m.  
Stewart's Food Store  
Sweeny

### Tuesday, Sept. 5 Disaster Drill

SHS Health Occupations students will be "victims" of the sort of attack outlined in the WMD class.

4:45 p.m.  
Sweeny Community Hospital

### Thursday, Sept. 7 Diabetes Workshop

Guest speaker will be Lonny Montgomery, DDS. Special time and date for September only. Meetings are usually the second Thursday of the month. For information, call 548-1590.

4 p.m.  
Main Conference Room



## World's Easiest Stress Test

If You Feel Like This Cat Looks,  
You Are Too Stressed!

● ut of ideas (or vacation days) and still need to get rid of stress? Try these simple alternatives, passed along by Christian Ramsey, a counselor for both the Heritage Program and the New Direction Weight Management Program at SCH:

Watch a sunset  
Sing a song  
Listen to music  
Dance a jig  
Have a cup of tea  
Take a break  
Keep a journal  
Get up early  
Play a drum  
Throw a ball  
Plant a flower  
Eat a snack  
Light a candle  
Walk in the rain



Take a bubble bath  
Ask for what you need  
Give a compliment  
Give a blessing  
Go to the beach  
Pet a dog  
Blow bubbles  
Take a walk  
Ask for help  
Do it now!  
Hum a tune  
Meditate

Prioritize  
Play with a child  
Say "no"  
Read a book  
Laugh out loud  
Run in the park  
Avoid negative people  
Go to bed on time  
Clean a closet  
Watch a sunrise  
Be positive  
Tell a joke  
Take a nap  
Write a letter  
Smile  
Stretch  
Practice patience  
Do Tai Chi  
Give a hug  
See a movie  
Set limits  
Practice kindness  
Lie in the sun  
Talk to a friend  
Take a deep breath  
Go barefoot  
Say a prayer



## New In The Gift Shop

SCH Auxiliary President Mary Christian shows some of the new gift items now available in the SCH Gift Shop. Among them ... an electronic sudoku puzzle (\$12), non-alcoholic flavoring extracts from Southern Flavoring Co. of Bedford, Va. in vanilla, rum, lemon, peppermint, almond, banana and butter (\$3 each); velvety pink stuffed flowers with bendable stems (\$7), photo holders that use magnets to hold photos to a metal stem (\$8) and much more.



## SCH Lab Sends A Friend Off In Style

When Linda Delgado recently left her job at SCH, her coworkers turned out for a good-bye party in the cafeteria. From left are Estella Ellis, Sue Wilkes, Rossana Tirado, Linda, Frank Knezek and Corky Maus. The rest of a pretty good-sized turnout watched as Lab folks posed for photos

## Budget

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expected sources of income, the hospital projects a net gain of \$22 next year.

Cash flow is expected to be tight again next year for several reasons. In Fiscal Year 2006, the hospital abruptly stopped using a bank line of credit to even out availability of cash that traditionally peaks in December and July, when tax receipts are paid.

The hospital stopped using the line of credit after the Attorney General's Office said the practice was not specifically authorized in the legislation that created the hospital district back in 1963. An

amendment to that legislation may be possible once the Legislature is back in session, but for now, the hospital has to cope as well as it can.

Meanwhile, SCH will pay approximately \$2.2 million next year for debt service on \$10 million in bonds issued in for the new emergency department, the assisted-living facility, a professional office building and remodeling inside the hospital. Those projects were completed in 2005.

The bonds will be paid off entirely in about 12 years.

As submitted, the FY 2007 budget would provide raises aver-

aging 3 percent for SCH employees. The budget also anticipates the cost and benefits of helping a new family practice physician get established in town.

Because the proposed tax rate would bring in more money than last year, the hospital board must hold two public hearings before making the final decision on the tax rate and approving the proposed budget.

The hearings are set for 6:30 p.m. Sept. 7 and 12 in the main conference room at the hospital.

The hearings, tax rate and new budget must be finalized before the new fiscal year begins Oct. 1.

**Current and past issues of 'Positive Findings' are now posted on the hospital's Web site. Visit [www.sweenyhospital.org](http://www.sweenyhospital.org).**

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*We're on the Web!*  
[www.sweenyhospital.org](http://www.sweenyhospital.org)

## CLASSIFIED ADS

**BRASS HEADBOARD:** Full-size. \$50. Contact Delores Merchant, 548-1591.  
**UPRIGHT PIANO,** antique red oak, needs tuning. Call Julie Delaney, 548-0381.  
**BUILDING SALVAGE:** Two houses to be torn down. If you need doors, windows, wood or other salvage materials, call Elaine Montier, 548-1570.

## More Residents At The Fountains

**C**rystal Johnson, administrator at The Fountains Assisted-Living Community, says the number of residents continues to grow. Currently, The Fountains has 21 residents occupying 20 units. That leaves only six left to rent. One unit will be reserved as a respite room — a furnished unit that potential residents can try out before deciding to move to the facility. A respite room stay costs \$90 per day and includes meals, transportation and services. For information, call 548-1524.



Sweeny/West Brazos EMS Paramedic Mark Rademacher recently visited the fish market in Seattle that famously inspired the "Fish!" book and video about positive attitudes in the workplace.

## Snoop Scoop

**P**aramedic Mark Rademacher's trip to Seattle wasn't just about visiting Pike's Peak, the famous fish market. He was also there to support his daughter's softball team that ended up 15-2 during their all-star season, winning third place in the softball World Series.

Congratulations to **Linda Fishbeck, RN**, on being named ER/Special Care Manager.

**Glenn Richard** recently got to drive a race car at the Texas Motor Speedway in Dallas along with his brother, who's had a long-standing wish to drive in a NASCAR race. A driving school finished a course and they let Glenn and others ride or drive some laps. Glenn's wife, SCH Accounts Payable Clerk **Kathy Richard**, got to ride on the speedway in a special NASCAR stretch limo, although Glenn said Kathy "only" got to go about 70 mph.



Glenn Richard ... with something a little faster than his usual Heritage van.

On Aug. 3, the SCH Physical Therapy staff attended a seminar on computer-assisted knee replacement surgery sponsored by **Dr. Roger Thompson** and **Dr. Sam Hudson**, orthopedic specialists, at Brazosport Regional Health System in Lake Jackson.



Ron Woolsey, RN, had a good day fishing in July off Sargent, where he caught a 25-lb wahoo, a 36-lb mahi mahi and a 68-pound grouper. He used squid and "jig" for bait.